

## THE OCTOBER MEETING AT LOUISVILLE.

The weather could not have been finer than it was Tuesday, the 6th. It was a perfect October day. Although the sport promised to be excellent, the attendance was not very large. The people of Louisville have been educated for so many years to regard the running turf as the only legitimate branch of racing that it is difficult to persuade them to take a general interest in trotting contests. But if the Fall meeting is continued under management as faultless as that of this week, a change of feeling will certainly come. The grand stand at the Zoological grounds is an immense affair, and fifteen hundred people make a slim show when scattered over it. The track is well laid out, but it is not fast. The soil, in its present shape, cups badly. The field is finely shaded, and all who visit the place vote the grounds handsome.

The first thing called on Wednesday was the unfinished 2:19 race. As Will Cody had to his credit a heat and a dead heat, the latter made with Bonsetter, he was quite a favorite in the pools. Orange Girl was out of the race, having finished behind the flag Tuesday evening. She was in no condition to do justice to herself, and should have been kept in the stable. The start for the fourth heat was a good one. Will Cody took the lead and held it. Down the home-stretch Von Arnim came with a rush, passed Bonsetter and Voltaire, and finished second. The time was 2:21. It now looked as if Will Cody could not lose, and Dr. Herr begged for permission to withdraw Von Arnim, giving as a reason that the young horse had an engagement on Thursday, and it would be cruel to force him to remain in a race which he could not win. The judges granted the Doctor's request. In the fifth heat Voltaire pressed Will Cody so closely that the latter broke around the upper turn, and rested himself by a run of more than 100 yards. He finished ahead of Voltaire, but the judges set him back. Voltaire now had two heats to his credit, and it was plain that Cody was tired. Violent efforts were made to hedge, and the pool-sellers did a good business. The sixth heat was decisive. It was won by Voltaire in the slow time of 2:26½, Bonsetter second and Will Cody third. It was an excellent race, and Voltaire proved his mettle by wearing out his competitors.

Seven of the ten nominated for the 2:40 purse came to post. They were Big Julia, Annie Snyder, Hardie, Lilian, Bill Rodifer, Largesse and Joe Bunker. The latter was a strong favorite. He is a gray, 16 hands, five years old, and by George Wilkes, dam by Seely's American Star. The horses were unsteady in scoring, and the start was much delayed. When the word was given, Joe Bunker was in a pace, and he was up and down throughout the mile. He got inside of the flag, and the judges, taking a charitable view of the matter, decided not to distance him. Largesse opened a gap from the start and won easily, in 2:33, Big Julia second, Hardie third and Annie Snyder and Bill Rodifer distanced. The latter got into a tangle and would not trot. He is a speedy horse when at himself and properly driven. He looks a good deal like Mr. Bonner's Edwin Forrest. In the second heat Joe Bunker was a different horse. The fight between him and Largesse was sharp and earnest, but the mare won in 2:28¾. In the third heat Bunker and Largesse trotted as a double team to the three-quarter pole, but in coming down the home-stretch the gray horse drew to the front, winning in 2:27¼. In the fourth heat there was another splendid struggle between Joe Bunker and Largesse. The mare weakened a little down the home-stretch and the horse won in 2:27¼, Hardie and Big Julia distanced, the route, in connection with the pace, having been too long for them. The fifth heat was an easy victory for Joe Bunker. The time was 2:26. It is claimed that Bunker can trot three heats in 2:20. Largesse has been sold for \$7,000 to Mr. Skinner, of New Hampshire. She is a daughter of Scott's Thomas.

The 2:26 race was stubbornly fought and full of glorious uncertainties. Ten horses responded to the call of the bell, and Robert McGregor was the favorite. Myrtle and Tolu Maid acted badly in scoring, and were the cause of much precious time being wasted. Finally the word was given and the battle opened in earnest. Minnie R's well known speed carried her to the front. She won the heat in 2:25, Tolu Maid second, Fannie Witherspoon third, Myrtle distanced and McGregor in the rear rank. The second heat also was won by Minnie R, with Fannie Witherspoon second and Lumps third. The time was slow, 2:28½. Minnie R was now a great favorite in the betting. The third heat furnished a surprise. Tolu Maid got off well, and, trotting smoothly, beat Minnie R. to the wire, in 2:26¼, the diminutive Lumps third. The speculators still clung to the notion that Minnie R. was bound to win; but in the fourth heat the racket was too much for her, and McGregor, the early favorite, puzzled the crowd by fighting his way to the lead down the home-stretch. He was splendidly driven and won the heat in 2:25½, with Tolu Maid second. Darkness was settling down when the fifth heat was called. The word was given to a fair start, and eyes were strained in keeping track of the horses. Several of them were closely bunched at the third quarter, and down the home-stretch Fannie Witherspoon demonstrated the quality of her breeding by leaving the ruck and winning the heat, in 2:28¼, Minnie R. second and McGregor third. At the conclusion of the heat Fannie Witherspoon was

the freshest of the lot, and were it not for darkness she would have been looked upon as a certain winner. But the race had to go over, and it was felt that Minnie R. would come out fresh and capture the purse. The weather was a little warmer on Thursday, but the track was still slow. The seventh heat was called at 12 o'clock, and the horses were sent off in good style. A new driver was up behind McGregor, but the horse did not have speed enough to win. Fannie Witherspoon fought her way through the crowd, and was first under the wire, in 2:25, McGregor second, Blanche Amory third, and Lumps fourth. The seventh heat closed the battle. Fannie Witherspoon won it easily, in 2:27½, Lumps second, McGregor third, Girl E. Queen fourth. In Fannie Witherspoon we see the virtue of the thoroughbred cross. Her sire was Almont and her dam by the great race-horse Wagner.

The 2:20 pacing race came next. The starters were Eagle Boy, Clinker, Ben Hamilton and Billy Scott. It was a tame affair. Ben Hamilton was the favorite, and he won in straight heats, the time of which was 2:19¼, 2:19½, 2:22½. In the second heat Eagle Boy got mixed up and was distanced. He is a good young horse, but is green in the racing business. Piedmont was a strong favorite in the 2:31 class. His competitors were Von Arnim, Voltaire and Lida Bassett. The latter acted very badly and ran inside of the flag, but the judges proclaimed her distanced. Piedmont won, with apparent ease, in 2:24, 2:24¼, 2:25½. There was a bitter struggle between Voltaire and Von Arnim for second place, and it resulted in their dividing second and third money. The 2:34 class was won in straight heats by the brown mare Alta, by Almont, dam by Bourbon Chief; second dam by Cripple, by Medoc. Her competitors were Girl E. Queen, Cyclone, Sue Grundy, Enid, Stamps and Effie G. The time of the race was 2:28¾, 2:29½, 2:30. Stamps and Girl E. Queen were distanced the first heat. The latter had just come out of a hard race and her failure excited no surprise. Cyclone won second money and Sue Grundy third money. It was a great day for the Almonts. Gus Glidden wanted to talk back to the judges, and they imposed a fine of \$50, which sobered him. Unless the stand makes itself respected, there can be no order, no system on the trotting turf.

Friday morning broke cloudy, but the sun came out bright and hot in the afternoon. The attendance was the best of the meeting, and all the conditions were favorable to fast time. The starters in the 2:23 class were William H., Silverton, Convoy, Leontine, So-So, Lumps, Post Boy, and the great four-year-old, Alcantara. The latter was the favorite in the pools. In the first heat Convoy was sent away in a break, and he did more running than the law allows; still he was not distanced. So-So also acted badly and barely saved her distance. Leontine showed in front along the backstretch, when Alcantara shot like a rocket from the ruck, showed the way down the home-stretch, and won in hand, in 2:23. In the second heat Alcantara was worried by scoring, and he found it impossible, after the word was given, to fight clear of the crowd. Silverton worked his way to the front and won from Convoy, in 2:23½. In the third heat the old horses made it warm for the youngster. Post Boy won by three lengths, Silverton second and William H. third; time, 2:23½. Convoy finished fourth, but was placed last for running. Lumps showed distress at the end of this heat, and the judges permitted him to withdraw. The fourth heat was exciting. Post Boy rested himself by repeated runs, and he beat So-So to the wire by a length, but the judges placed him second and awarded the heat to the five-year-old mare. Silverton was third and Alcantara fourth. The time was 2:24½. In the fifth heat Alcantara came out comparatively fresh, and he revived the drooping spirits of his friends by winning in good style. Post Boy finished second, but was placed third for running. The time was 2:24½. Convoy, William H. and Leontine now went to the stable. The sun was down when the sixth heat was trotted. Alcantara led to the head of the home-stretch, but Post Boy overhauled him in coming to the wire, and beat him across the score by four lengths. The judges had charged five runs up to Post Boy, and therefore they were compelled to set him back. Opinion was divided on the stand, and a compromise was effected by deciding the heat dead. The followers of Post Boy thought the judges were too severe on that horse. They did not take into consideration the fact that the new rule with regard to repeated breaking, passed by the last Turf Congress, was aimed at just such horses as Post Boy. An honest trotter is very much discouraged by a horse passing him in a skip and a run. I believe in punishing the chronic breaker every time. At the close of the sixth heat the race was postponed. The Macys had a wail in the *Commercial* Saturday morning that "Mr. Busby has always treated us badly." It has been my unpleasant duty to be in the judges' stand on three separate occasions when Post Boy trotted, and each time I insisted on penalizing him for running. In setting the horse back I simply enforced a rule which is plain to the understanding of all intelligent men. If the Macys received more of this "bad" treatment, possibly they would train their horses to trot squarely from wire to wire. Alcantara did not come out very fresh Saturday, and so Post Boy, who is a game and seasoned horse, won the

seventh and eighth heats. The starting of Alcantara with his bad leg and lack of work, in a race with rapid and old campaigners, was a mistake. He is a great young horse, but it does not stand to reason that he can successfully fight a stubborn battle with aged horses.

The pacing race was desperately contested. Mattie Hunter was the favorite, and she won the first heat in 2:18¼. In the second heat she got the worst of the send-off, and Lucy thundered down the home-stretch, and won in 2:17¼. In the third heat Rowdy Boy and Lucy had a terrific struggle from the three-quarter pole home, the first-named winning, in 2:16½. In the fourth heat Sorrel Dan and Rowdy Boy locked horns, and they came to the wire nose and nose, in 2:17. The judges decided the heat dead between them. In the fifth heat Sorrel Dan was a good horse. He carried Rowdy Boy to a break down the home-stretch, and was first under the wire, in 2:16¼. The judges placed Mattie Hunter second and Rowdy Boy third. Darkness put an end to the contests for the day. The speculators were all at sea, and their money was tied up in the box. On Saturday Lucy came out in good form and won the deciding heat of the race.

I did not stop to see the riding of Miss Pinneo and Miss Jewett, but I am told that the crowd was quite large. It is a pity that more of the people who went to the track on Saturday did not visit the grounds on other days of the meeting. They will never have another opportunity to see better contested races. The meeting was not a financial success. Messrs. Conley and Linderberger possibly will get out whole, but they will count no profits.

Mr. M. P. Bush, with his party, arrived Thursday, in the special car. The following named gentlemen composed the party: Myron P. Bush, Henry C. Jewett, George L. Williams, Buffalo; Samuel Wilder, E. B. Parsons, James S. Whitney, Rochester; Frank H. Ellis, Philadelphia; J. B. Houston, James T. Souther, J. H. McCoon, George B. Alley, A. A. Bonner, Frederick Bonner, A. Claggett, New York, and Charles Keep, Lockport. Friday morning the gentlemen breakfasted at Indian Hill with Mr. R. S. Veech, and Saturday morning at Glenview with the Messrs. McFerran. I have made notes of the studs at both of these places and will write them out in due course of time. Saturday afternoon the visiting delegation left by special train for Frankfort, stopping that night at the Capitol Hotel, and dining on Sunday at Woodlake with Major H. C. McDowell. At Woodlake one of the gentlemen purchased Toto, the two-year-old sister of Trinket, paying \$3,500 for her. She is a well-formed filly, but has not been worked for speed. She will be given time to mature before she is put on the turf. Mr. Souther also purchased of Major McDowell the dark-brown colt Repartee, one year old, by King Rene, dam Magenta, by Woodford Mambrino; second dam Madge, by Alexander's Abdallah, and third dam Little Meg, by imp. Glencoe. He is magnificently bred and superbly gaited, and he was cheap at \$1,000. The night at Woodlake was charming. The soft light of the moon fell upon lawn and tree and lake, while the air was deliciously calm, and from the woodland pasture where the Jerseys were moving about uneasily came the sweet sound, the musical tinkle, of Alpine bells. The scene will not soon fade from the memory of those who smoked their cigars upon the lawn that night. No man's social position is more clearly defined than that of Major McDowell. He has fortune, reputation and troops of friends. I was examining the portrait of an exceedingly handsome old gentleman hanging in his parlor, and on asking who it represented was informed that it was Col. Samuel McDowell, the first United States Marshal for Kentucky. He was appointed by President Washington. He was the grandfather of Major H. C. McDowell. The latter gentleman held the same office, being appointed by President Lincoln. Some of the gentlemen present expressed surprise at a Kentuckian's admiration of Mr. Lincoln. Major McDowell explained that his Republicanism was bred in the bone. His great grandfather was an emancipationist, and was the President of the Convention that formed the constitution under which Kentucky was admitted as a State, and that he then desired a clause prohibiting slavery, but it was deemed inexpedient. The Major's grandfather, and his father also, were emancipationists. Of the eleven grand children of Col. Samuel McDowell, Jr., living at the time of the late war, nine were officers in the Federal Army, one was too infirm for service, and the other too young. It was a strong case of inherited opinions. In the dining room hangs a portrait of Col. Henry Clay, the father of Mrs. McDowell, also the portrait of her grandfather, Henry Clay, of Ashland. After all had drunk to the memory of the departed statesman, the conversation turned on backing one's horses, and Maj. McDowell remarked that he had never bet on any but his own horses, and very little on them. He added that all the money he had ever lost in his life he could pay with two months of his income, and all that he had ever won would be equalled by about the same sum. He went on to say that as he was no Croesus the amount could not be very large. What little betting he had done was for amusement, and it had never inconvenienced him. The Major has been a successful breeder. He has sold within the last two seasons but ten colts. Five of these were disposed of at public auction.